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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/662,414	09/14/2000	Kirk Beach	3730-915	9962

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PERKINS COIE LLP
PATENT-SEA
P.O. BOX 1247
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247

EXAMINER

ABDI, KAMBIZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/662,414

Applicant(s)

BEACH ET AL.

Examiner

Kambiz Abdi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The prior office actions dated are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.

- No claim has been amended.
- Claim 42 has been canceled.
- Claims 1-41 are pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1 July 2004 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 1 July 2004 have been fully considered but they are not in view of the new ground(s) of rejection

4. The applicant amendments to the specification have been entered and the continuation-in-part has been recognized. Examiner has extended the priority date to the earliest date permissible to sections of the current application claims to the extent that subject matter claimed has been provided support in the prior applications.

5. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims were commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), and potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), (f), or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,736,725 to James G. Burns in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,318,536 to Bruce R. Korman.

8. As for claims 1, 3-4, 13, 14-17, 20, 23, 32, 37, 38, 40 and 42, Burns clearly teaches a system and method for verifying a voucher or token, comprising;

- means for recording a code associated with the voucher (cash out slips with bar code) or token (See Burns column 2, lines 55-63 and column 6, lines 48-68);
- a voucher or token database which stores at least one of a code and a value associated with the voucher or token (See Burns column 2, lines 55-63, and column 6, lines 48-68);
- means for scanning the voucher or token to retrieve the code at a cashier's station (See Burns column 7, lines 50-58);
- means for querying a voucher or token database for information associated with the code (See Burns column 6, line 55-column 7, line 68);
- verifying the value associated with the voucher or token (See Burns column 6, lines 55-63).
- means for determining whether the voucher or token is valid (See Burns column 6, line 55-column 7, line 68),
- the code associated with a voucher or token is unique (See Burns column 6, lines 48-63),

What is not explicitly taught by Burns is the direct communication link (Second communication link) with either host computer centrally located (central processing unit or back room computer) in

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communication with the kiosk or directly communicating with kiosk (second (direct) communication link with Slot Machine) for the voucher validation.

However, Korman clearly teaches the use of direct (second communication link) or indirect (first communication link) communication via multiple communications method to the central processing unit or the kiosk for the purpose of validating a redeemable voucher at a terminal (See Korman column 9, lines 29-30, column 7, line 59- column 8, line 3, column 9, lines 39-42, column 10, lines 16-18, and column 10, line 65-column 11, line 4). It is clear that one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to modify any type of communication (using POTS or PSTN, ISDN, DSL Modem, TCP/IP, RS-232 Serial connection, Wireless RF Modem, a cellular modem, or satellite connection) to be used to communicate between a point of sale terminal (POS) and the issuing kiosk directly or via a centrally located computer that all or many of kiosks are connected thereto to verify the validity of the presented voucher to the POS (slot machine or cashier's station).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the current invention was made to use the alternative methods of communications thought by Korman to communicate with the validating authority to validate a voucher for the motivation of direct communication between the POS and the validating system (kiosk or the central processing unit) to achieve more accurate transactions as well as reduction on the need for a local processing unit to store the needed information.

9. As for claims 2 and 21, Burns clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 20, further; Burns teaches,

- providing a coin counting mechanism which is configured to receive, all at once, a plurality of randomly oriented coins of multiple denominations and other objects, discriminate the coins and output the voucher or token for an amount related to the value of the coins (See Burns column 7, lines 50-58).

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10. As for claims 3, 22, and 39, Burn clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 1, 20, and 38 further; Burns teaches,

- the scanning step is performed with a recognition subsystem (See Burns column 2, lines 55-68 and column 3, lines 24-30).

11. As for claims 5 and 24, Burn clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 20, further; Burns teaches,

- the querying step includes querying a kiosk which includes at least a portion of the voucher or token database (See column 2, lines 55-66, column 6, lines 48-55, and column 8, lines 11-17)

12. As for claims 6 and 25, Burn clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 5 and 24, further; Burns teaches,

- the recording step is performed in a remote location from the kiosk (See Burns column 3, lines 33-50 and column 4, lines 39-53).

13. As for claims 7 and 26, Burn clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 20, further; Burns teaches,

- the querying step includes querying a control center which includes at least a portion of the voucher or token database (See Burns column 6, lines 48-63).

14. As for claims 8 and 27, Burn clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 20, further; Burns teaches,

- the querying step is performed by a recognition subsystem (See Burns column 3, lines 38-41).

15. As for claims 9 and 28, Burn clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 20, further; Burns teaches,

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- the querying step is performed by a recognition subsystem the voucher or token includes at least one of a magnetic strip, a bar code or a smart card (See column 6, lines 5-16 and column 8, lines 23-28).

16. As for claims 10 and 29, Burn clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 20, further; What Burns is not explicit on,

- the voucher or token is at least one of a phone card, a gift certificate, a mass transit pass, a travel ticket, a financial instrument and an event ticket.

However, Korman is clearly teaches the total value can be used for multiple transactions such as event tickets or airline tickets (See Korman column 2, lines 51-64).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the current invention was made to combine the teachings of the Burns and Korman for the motivation of further the transaction utility of the system of the burns.

17. As for claims 11 and 30, Burn clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 20, further; Burns teaches,

- printing the voucher or token (See Burns column 3, lines 37-41 and column 4, lines 39-53).

18. As for claims 12, 18, 31, and 41 Burn clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 1, 13, 20, and 40, further; Burns teaches,

- counting coins with a coin counting mechanism in a kiosk, wherein at least a part of the database is located in the kiosk (See Burns column 7, lines 50-58 and column 8, lines 9-17).

19. As for claim 19, Burn clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 113, further; Burns teaches, the system is not coupled to a point of sale system (See Burns column 7, lines 50-58)

20. As for claim 33, Burns clearly teaches all the limitations of claim 32, further;

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What Burns does not explicitly teach that the code contains at least a modem number of an issuing kiosk (See Burns column 6, lines 34-38). Burns clearly teaches the utility of the bar code including number of information within the code. Additionally Korman clearly teaches the use of modem for communication and it would be essential to have some kind of identifier (telephone number or ISDN Number) for linking the two parties on each side of the modem communication in order to connect to the specific party.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the current invention was made to have a number included within the bar code for ease and convenient of locating and communicating with the specific kiosk for retrieving information for validating the value voucher.

21. As for claim 34, Burns clearly teaches all the limitations of claim 32, further; Burns teaches,
 - the code is related to at least one of a printed voucher or token or a preexisting card (See Burns column 6, lines 48-55).
22. As for claim 35, Burns clearly teaches all the limitations of claim 32, further; Burns teaches,
 - recording a residual value associated with the code after the redeeming step (See Burns column 4, lines 46-49)
23. As for claim 36, Burns clearly teaches all the limitations of claim 32, further; Burns teaches,
 - the reading step is performed with at least one of a card reader, a smartcard reader and a bar code scanner (See Burns column 2, lines 63-65, column 3, lines 24-27).
24. Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response,

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to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kambiz Abdi whose telephone number is (703) 305-3364. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM to 5:00 PM.

26. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

27. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
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or faxed to:

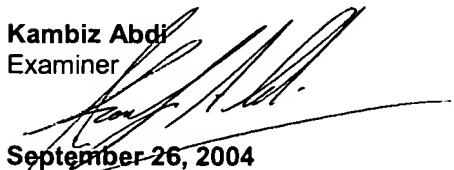
(703) 872-9306 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(703) 746-7749 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

**Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive
7th floor receptionist, Arlington, VA, 22202**

Kambiz Abdi
Examiner



September 26, 2004